

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A portable shoehorn which is a shoehorn obtained by bending a plate member, which has been bent in a breadth direction thereof, in a longitudinal direction thereof approximately like a bow to form a slender plate shape and whose grip section is constituted so as to be folded into two parts at a central portion thereof to reduce an entire length of the shoehorn approximately by half, wherein

a backscratcher is formed at a distal end of the grip section and an elastic body for patting a human body is constituted so as to be ~~attachably/detachably~~ removeably mounted to a portion of the backscratcher and a shoehorn portion of the shoehorn.

2. (previously presented): A portable shoehorn according to Claim 1, wherein the grip section is formed such that the breadth thereof is shorter than those of the backscratcher and the shoehorn portion of the shoehorn, and the elastic body for patting a human body comprises a main body portion with a spherically formed face contacting with a human body and a mounting portion which is applied to be mounted to the backscratcher and the shoehorn portion of the shoehorn; and

the mounting portion of the shoehorn of the elastic body for patting a human body is formed with an engagement groove with a groove breadth which allows engagement

with the backscratcher and the shoehorn portion of the shoehorn without allowing engagement with the grip section.

3. (previously presented): A portable shoehorn according to claim 1, wherein the backscratcher is constituted with a corrugated projection provided at a bent end formed by bending a distal end thereof and a plurality of small projections provided in a projecting manner at left and right side edges near the bent portion; and

the engagement groove of the elastic body for patting a human body is formed with engagement holes engaged with the small projections of the backscratcher.

4. (new): A portable shoehorn comprising:

a bent plate member, said member comprising a grip section and a shoehorn section, each of said grip section and said shoehorn section (1) being bent in a breadth-wise direction thereof and in a longitudinal direction thereof approximately like a bow to form a slender plate shape, (2) having a distal end and a proximal end at which said sections are rotatably joined to form a central portion, and (3) being foldable into two parts at said central portion to reduce an entire length of the shoehorn approximately by half,

a backscratcher formed at the distal end of the grip section and a shoehorn formed at the distal end of the shoehorn section, and

an elastic body for patting a human body, said elastic body comprising a main body portion and a mounting portion, said mounting portion being operative for removeable mounting of the elastic body to at least one of the grip section and the shoehorn section.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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5. (new): A portable shoehorn according to claim 4, wherein the mounting portion of said elastic body is shaped with an engagement groove to fit over and securely engage edges at a bend in the breadthwise direction of at least one of the grip portion and the shoehorn portion.

6. (new): A portable shoehorn according to claim 4, wherein the mounting portion of said elastic body is shaped with an engagement groove to fit over and securely engage edges at a bend in the breadthwise direction of both the grip portion and the shoehorn portion.